

Amendments To The Claims:

1 - 2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The bone fixing device according to claim 23, wherein the connecting members are deformable symmetrically with respect to the line extending through the center of the fixing portions such that the fixing portions are drawn toward one another along the line.

4 - 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The bone fixing device according to claim 23, wherein the connecting members are parallel to each other prior to being deformed.

7. (Previously Presented) The bone fixing device according to claim 23, wherein each connecting member has at least one point of weakness at which bending of the connecting member occurs in preference to elsewhere on the connecting member.

8. (Previously Presented) The bone fixing device according to claim 7, wherein each of the at least one point of weakness is a necked portion of the respective connecting member.

9 – 22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) A bone fixing device for fixing bone pieces together, the bone fixing device consisting of:

first and second fixing portions, each fixing portion comprising either one annulus having an outer radius or two annuli each having a respective outer radius, the two annuli being located relative to each other so that their respective outer radii touch or overlap, and wherein each annulus of each fixing portion has a central hole capable of receiving a bone screw; and

first and second connecting members formed integrally with the first and second fixing portions, each connecting member extending directly to each of the first and second fixing portions and lying symmetrically about a line extending through a centre of the fixing portions, the connecting members being deformable to draw the fixing portions together wherein the connecting members substantially maintain their position after deformation; and

wherein the fixing portions and the connecting members are arranged so that the connecting members extend from respective annuli of the first and second fixing portions which are closest to each other.

24. (Previously Presented) The bone fixing device according to claim 23, wherein the connecting members join the respective annuli from which they extend on a circumference of the annuli.

25. (Previously Presented) The bone fixing device according to claim 23, wherein the first fixing portion comprises two annuli wherein the two annuli of the first fixing portion lie on a line perpendicular to the line extending through the centre of the fixing portions.

26. (Previously Presented) The bone fixing device according to claim 23, wherein the first fixing portion comprises two annuli wherein the two annuli lie on the line extending through the centre of the fixing portions.

27 - 28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) The bone fixing device according to claim 24, wherein prior to deformation a transverse distance between outer lateral edges of the connecting members is about the same as an outer diameter of an annulus.